

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 COME-00 TAR-02 FRB-02 STR-08

SCI-06 AGR-20 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /107 W
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R 231825 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9973

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UK

SUBJECT: ANTIDUMPING: UK INVESTIGATION OF DIMETHYL
FORMAMIDE (DMF) IMPORTS

1. AN OFFICIAL (THOMAS BAND) OF THE TARIFF DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY INFORMED THE EMBASSY ON MARCH 23 THAT DTI HAS RECEIVED AN APPLICATION FROM IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD. (ICI) FOR THE IMPOSITION OF ANTI- DUMPING DUTIES ON DIMETHYL FORMAMIDE (DMF) IMPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. ICI HAS ALLEGED THAT DMF IS BEING EXPORTED TO THE UK AT PRICES BELOW THE FAIR MARKET PRICE, AND THAT THESE EXPORTS HAVE CAUSED " MATERIAL INJURY." ACCORDING TO DTI, PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE FAIR MARKET PRICE AT WHICH DMF IS SOLD IN THE US IS 141 POUNDS STERLING PER TON, WHEREAS THE EXPORT PRICE IS 102 POUNDS STERLING PER TON. IMPORTS FROM THE US ARE ALLEGED BY ICI TO ACCOUNT FOR 45 PERCENT OF THE UK MARKET.

2. AFTER HANDING US A PAPER CONTAINING THE ABOVE POINTS (COPY BEING POUCHED), BAND INFORMED US THAT DTI IS GOING TO GIVE FORMAL CONSIDERATION TO ICI' S APPLICATION. BAND THEN SAID THAT THE MAIN US EXPORTER OF DMF IS
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DUPONT, AND THAT DUPONT SUBSIDIARIES IN THE UK ALSO APPEAR TO BE THE MAIN IMPORTERS. ONE OF THE MAIN QUESTIONS DTI WANTS TO ANSWER IS WHETHER THE DUPONT SUBSIDIARIES ARE CONSUMING MOST OF THE IMPORTED DMF THEMSELVES, OR WHETHER THEY ARE SELLING IT ON THE UK MARKET. BAND INDICATED THAT DTI IS LIKELY TO TAKE ICI'S APPLICATION MORE SERIOUSLY IF IT DETERMINES THAT A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF THE IMPORTED DMF IS BEING SOLD BY THE DUPONT SUBSIDIARIES.

3. BAND SAID THAT DTI WILL PUBLISH A PRESS NOTICE IN EARLY APRIL CONCERNING ITS CONSIDERATION OF THIS APPLICATION. THE NOTICE WILL INVITE INTERESTED PARTIES TO SUBMIT WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS. (WE WILL POUCH A COPY WHEN IT IS PUBLISHED). DTI WILL THEN CONTACT THE DUPONT SUBSIDIARIES IN THE UK AND DUPONT'S HOME OFFICE IN WILMINGTON IN ORDER TO COLLECT MORE INFORMATION.

4. BAND NOTED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS THE POWER TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION IN AN ANTI- DUMPING CASE, PENDING COMPLETION OF THE INVESTIGATION. IT DOES NOT INTEND TO DO SO IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, UNLESS DUPONT TAKES " FORESTALLING ACTION" (FOR EXAMPLE, IF IT SUDDENLY EXPORTS LARGE QUANTITIES OF DMF TO THE UK IN ANTICIPATION OF ANTI- DUMPING ACTION).

5. BAND SAID THAT HE ASSUMED WE WOULD BE INFORMING WASHINGTON THAT DTI IS CONSIDERING ICI'S APPLICATION, AND THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD INFORM DUPONT.

ANNENBERG

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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